(d) whether it is a fact that HMT Limited is unable to compete with the other leading manufacturers of watches and if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the measures the company is planning to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The total loss incurred by HMT Limited during 1994-95 is Rs. 72.91 crores (provisional).

(b) to (d) It would not be in the business interests of HMT to disclose the profit/losses incurred by individual business groups. HMT Watch Business has suffered because of increased competition combined with the high overhead costs of HMT's operations. The steps taken by the management to turn-around the operations include introduction of a new range of economy watches and expansion of marketing efforts in the rural areas. As a long term measure, HMT has decided to enter into strategic alliance with a suitable private partner, who may bring in continuous supply of technology, investment and dynamic business practices.

Increase in prices of paper

3918. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of paper of various kinds have risen pushing up the prices of books and notebooks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of steps Government propose to take in the larger interest of student community to bring down the prices of papers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The prices of writing and printing paper have shown some increase on account of rise in cost of coal, power, caustic soda, imported pulp and other raw materials during recent months leading to consequential increase in the price of Books and Note Books.

(c) There is no statutory control over prices of paper. Prices of paper are determined by market forces.

District Industry Centres in Orissa

3919. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of District Industry Centres set up in Orissa so far;

(b) whether the DICs have been set up in the newly-created districts also;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to revamp the DICs in every State;

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon in Orissa; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to make the DICs more effective and meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) In Orissa, Government of India approved 13 District Industry Centres and as reported by the Govt. of Orissa, another 4 District Industries Centres have been set up by Govt. of Orissa so far.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) As decided by National Development Council (NDC) the Scheme of District Industries Centres has been transferred to States. It is for the State/UT Govts. to set up DICs in their newly created Districts and to restructure the DICs, if considered necessary.